

[**PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 601, December 09, 1974**]

PROVIDING FOR THE REVISION OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED 5173 COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE COAST GUARD LAW, CONSOLIDATING FRAGMENTED FUNCTIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, there is a need to organizationally modify the Philippine Coast Guard to enable it to discharge its functions more efficiently and effectively;

WHEREAS, there is a need to consolidate functionally related activities into an integrated system to best promote safety of life and property at sea;

WHEREAS, it is urgently necessary to maintain the present role of the Coast Guard as the guardian of sea safety, and afford a total approach in its supervision over the Philippine merchant ships with the end in view of promoting a progressive, reliable and safe merchant marine;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution, in order to effect the desired changes and reforms in the social, economic and political structure of our society, do hereby decree and order that the following be adopted and made part of the laws of the land:

SEC. 1. Title. — This Decree shall be known as the Revised Coast law of 1974.

SEC. 2. Coast Guard Objectives. — The Philippine Coast Guard created pursuant to Republic Act No. 5173 shall have the following general objectives:

- a. To enforce or assist in the enforcement of all applicable laws upon the high seas and territorial waters of the Philippines including all ports, customs zones, waterways and other inland waters;
- b. To enforce laws, promulgate and administer regulations for the promotion of safety of life and property within the maritime jurisdiction of the Philippines;
- c. To develop, establish, maintain and operate with due regard to the requirements of national defense, aids to maritime navigation for the promotion of safety on and over high seas and territorial waters of the Philippines;
- d. To promulgate, administer and enforce rules and regulations for national sea search and rescue operations, operate rescue facilities and participate in behalf of the Philippine government in international conferences for regional cooperation relative to the promotion of safety of life and property at sea;
- e. To provide necessary assistance to government agencies promoting the economic development of the maritime industry in the Philippines; and
- f. To enforce laws, promulgate and administer regulations for marine environmental protection of the territorial waters of the Philippines.

SEC. 3. Abolition of Board of Visitors. — The Board of Visitors provided under Section 2 and RA 5173 is abolished.

SEC. 4. Administration and Operation. — The Philippine Coast Guard shall be placed under the direct supervision and control of the Secretary of National Defense.

SEC. 5. *Specific Functions.* — The Philippine Coast Guard shall perform the following functions:

- a. To prevent and suppress illegal entry, illegal fishing, illegal gathering of corals and other marine products, smuggling, other customs frauds and violations of other maritime and fishery laws that may be committed within the waters of the Philippines and, for this purpose, surveillance and inspection by the Philippine Coast Guard may be made on vessels entering and/or leaving Philippine territory; *Provided*, That any other law enforcement agency may be called upon by the Philippine Coast Guard to render assistance in the discharge of this function:
- b. To approve plans for the construction, repair or alteration of vessels; approve materials, equipment and appliance of vessel; approve the classification of vessels; inspect vessels and their equipment and appliances; register all types of motorized watercraft plying in Philippine waters; issue certificates of inspection and/or permits, indicating the approval of vessels for operation; issue certificates of Philippine registry of vessels; administer load line requirements; promulgate and enforce other provisions for the safety of life and property of vessels; determine the numbering of undocumented vessels; *Provided*, That certification and approval of any plans, equipment and any vessels by internationally known classification societies which are recognized by the Philippine government shall be deemed to have complied with this Section;
- c. To promulgate and enforce rules for lights, signals, speed, steering, sailing, passing, anchorage, movement and towlines of vessels and lights and signals on bridges; supervise, control and regulate vessels engaged in the carriage of passengers and dangerous cargo; and, regulate the length, method and speed of tow in bays and rivers of the Philippines;
- d. To prescribe and enforce regulations for outfitting and operation of motorboats and the licensing of motor-boats;
- e. To destroy or tow in port sunken or floating dangers to navigation, including fish traps at or close to sea lanes, and to issue permits for the salvage of vessels and to supervise all marine salvage operations as well as prescribe and enforce rules and regulations governing the same;
- f. To establish, develop, operate and maintain aids to navigation and facilities for search and rescue operations as well as prescribe rules and regulations relative thereto;
- g. To promulgate, administer and enforce rules and regulations giving effect to the provisions of international conventions for the safety of life and property at sea and to represent the Philippine government in such conventions in the interest of promoting regional cooperation;
- h. To supervise nautical school and maritime training programs and prescribe minimum requirements in the conduct of courses in navigation, seamanship, marine engineering and other allied matters in coordination with the Department of Education and Culture;
- i. To establish, maintain and operate a Seaman's Training Center for the training of seafarers for employment aboard inter-island and ocean-going vessels, and in this connection, to establish, maintain and operate a registration and placement unit or office for the administration or seaman's affairs;
- j. To enforce laws and promulgate rules and regulations governing manning of merchant vessels and fishing boats as well as those governing citizenship and